



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Lusardi Truck Trail Road Maintenance		
PROJECT LOCATION	North Central San Diego County, south of State Hwy 76 approximately 14 miles west of State Hwy 79, and contained within Portions of Sec 31, 10S, R2E, Sec's 6 & 8, T11S, R2E, and Sec's 12,13 T11S, R1E SBBM.	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Pete Scully		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE – Monte Vista Headquarters Pre-Fire/Resource Management Office 2249 Jamacha Rd El Cajon, CA 92019	PHONE	(619) 743-5530

Project Description:

This project proposes performing annual road surface maintenance and repair, and limited road side brush removal, on 3.6 miles of the Lusardi Truck Trail, encompassing approximately 9 acres, located within a remote, sparsely populated area approximately 7 miles east, northeast of the Community of Valley Center in northern San Diego County. The Lusardi truck trail serves as ingress and egress for fire suppression and emergency response activities. This project will encompass typical tasks associated with dirt surface road maintenance consisting of road surface grading, filling of eroded ruts, repair of existing water drainage facilities, debris removal from existing culvert systems, removal of obstructions within the road such as rocks and fallen trees, and hand removal of selected shrub vegetation for a distance of 10 feet on both sides of the roadway, totaling approximately 4.5 acres, as necessary to facilitate maintenance work and provide safe emergency access during wildfire response. Species targeted for removal are Chamise, Ceanothus, and California Buckwheat; other isolated tall shrub species may be trimmed or removed to meet project objectives. Vegetation will be cut at or above surface level, all root structures and herbaceous surface vegetation will be left in place to prevent erosion. All cut vegetation will be chipped on site and chips spread to a maximum thickness of three inches. All ground disturbing activities (grader and dozer operations) will remain within the prism of the existing road.

This environmental review shall be reassessed during the spring of 2020 to ensure environmental conditions remained unchanged.

EXEMPTION STATUS

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|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: Class 1 and 4 | 15301, Existing Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): | | 15304, Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) | | |

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project is contained within the descriptions of two Categorical Exemptions listed in the CEQA Guidelines: Class 1 pertaining to repair and maintenance of existing facilities, and Class 4 pertaining to minor alterations to land. After completing an environmental analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, a CNDDDB search, review of previous biological assessments, greenhouse gas emission calculations, and archaeological review completed by CAL FIRE Archaeological staff.


Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is retained on file at CAL FIRE MVU Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 25 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


Helge Eng
Deputy Director, Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1/16/16
Date